In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended). A piston support for an axially extending driving piston (8) in a setting tool, wherein said piston (8) comprises a leading end for driving an element from the setting tool and an opposite trailing end, said piston (8) having an axially extending cylindrical section (10a) closer to the leading end and axially extending from said cylindrical section (10a) towards the trailing end of said piston (8), an axially extending wedge-shaped section (10b) having a wedge surface (18) ~~being~~ inclined inwardly towards said piston axis (16) in the direction towards the trailing end of said piston (8), said piston (8) is located within an axially extending piston guide (5) having a leading end (7) and an axially spaced trailing end (6), said piston (8) having a ready-to-fire position located within the leading end (7) of said piston guide (5) and being displaced from the ready-to-fire position towards the leading end of said piston guide when the setting tool is fired, at least one spherically shaped braking element (23) mounted in a recess (19) formed of an inelastic material in the leading end (7) of said piston guide (5) with said recess extending radially outwardly from said piston (8) in the ready-to-fire position, said recess (19) has an inelastic base (22) spaced radially outwardly from said piston (8) and extending generally in the axial direction of said piston with said base (22) inclined outwardly relative to the axis of said piston toward the trailing end of said piston, means in said recess biasing said braking

element inwardly toward said piston (8), said piston guide (5) in the region of the ready-to-fire position is disposed in pressure contact with said cylindrical section (10a) and when fired the pressure contact reduces as said piston (8) moves towards the leading end of said piston guide (5) and said braking element is located in the range of said wedge surface (18).

2. (Original). A piston support, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said wedge surface (18) is an axially extending conically shaped surface.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously presented). A piston support, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein said means biasing said braking element towards the leading end of said piston in the direction of a wall (20) of said recess (19) extending perpendicular to said piston axis and closer to the leading end of said piston guide.

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently amended). A piston support, as set forth in Claim 1, wherein a plurality of said spherically shaped braking elements (23) are positioned in said recesses of said piston guide (5) equiangularly spaced apart around said piston (8).